Group III: Claims 12-15 and 28-31, directed to a nucleic acid, a vector containing same, a host cell thereof, and a method of recombinantly producing the encoded polypeptide;

Group IV: Claims 16 and 32, directed to an antibody;

Group V: Claims 33-36, 37 in part, and 38-46, directed to a method of identifying a prokineticin receptor agonist;

Group VI: Claims 33-36, 37 in part, 38-41 and 47-52, directed to a method of identifying a prokineticin receptor antagonist; and

Group VII: Claims 53-90, directed to an isolated prokineticin receptor antagonist, a pharmaceutical composition thereof, a nucleic acid encoding the antagonist polypeptide, a vector containing same, a host cell thereof, and a method of preparing said polypeptide.

The Office Action also indicates that one of amino acid sequences SEQ ID NO:3 (human prokineticin 1); SEQ ID NO:6 (human prokineticin 2); SEQ ID NO:13 (chimera 12); or SEQ ID NO:14 (chimera 21) must be selected for examination.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement for the reasons stated below. Nevertheless, in order to be responsive to

the Office Action, Applicants elect the invention of Group VI, claims 33-36, 37 in part, 38-41 and 47-52, for examination. Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of non-elected claims in one or more related applications that claim the benefit of priority to the above-identified application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement with respect to the division of the claims of elected Group VI from those of Group V. Applicants submit that while the claims of Group VI are patentably distinct from those of Group V, a thorough search of Group VI claims will identify art relevant to Group V. In this regard, the claims of Group VI are directed to methods of identifying a prokineticin receptor antagonist, while the claims of Group II are directed to methods of identifying a prokineticin receptor agonist. Although receptor antagonists and agonists identified using the claimed methods are expected to differ structurally, the methods for identifying antagonists and agonists involve using the same prokineticin receptors, the same prokineticins, and both result in identifying a compound that selectively alters production of a prokineticin receptor signal or prokineticin binding. Thus, a thorough search of methods of identifying a prokineticin receptor antagonist will encompass a search of methods of identifying a prokineticin receptor agonist. For this reason, Applicants submit that search and examination of the claims of Groups VI and V together would not impose an undue burden on the Examiner.

Regarding the sequence election requirement

Applicants traverse the sequence election requirement for the reasons stated below. Nevertheless, in order to be responsive to the Office Action, Applicants elect SEQ ID NO:6 (amino acid sequence of human prokineticin 2) for examination with respect to the claims of Group VI.

Applicants respectfully traverse the species election requirements with respect to SEQ ID NOS:3, 6, 13 and 14. In particular regarding SEQ ID NOS:13 and 14, each of these chimeric amino acid sequences contain both a portion of SEQ ID NO:6 and a portion of SEQ ID NO:3. Therefore, a search of prior art in relation to SEQ ID NO:6 will reveal art relevant to SEQ ID NOS:13 and 14. Similarly, a search of prior art in relation to SEQ ID NO:3 will reveal art relevant to SEQ ID NOS:13 and 14. Thus, although the amino acid sequences corresponding to SEQ ID NOS:3, 6, 13 and 14 are patentably distinct, search and examination of SEQ ID NO:3 or 6 together with SEQ ID NOS:13 and 14 would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. However, the elected group of claims do not recite SEQ ID NOS:13 or 14.